

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 were presented for examination. Claims 9-20 have been withdrawn in response to the Restriction Office Action mailed June 8, 2007.

Claims 1, 5, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kay (US Patent Pub. No. 2002/0093080).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner in that Kay does not disclose “a **pair of tabs 300** at opposite ends thereof such that each tab **extends beyond** a respective one of the lateral edges”. Examiner did not specify in the notification where such pair of tabs are disclosed in Kay. As a matter of fact, Kay describes Fig.3 in paragraph [0024] “a two piece side rail covers 50, 51 for placing over and pressing against the top outside side edges of the substrate 30...”. But such covers 50, 51 do not have the same structures nor the same functions as the pair of tabs 300 of the present invention.

On page 7, lines 3-7 of the present invention, it is specified that “each longitudinal guide strip 304 includes a pair of tabs 300 exposed at opposition ends thereof ... pair of tabs 300 function to prevent substrate bowing and/or warping at the ends of tape substrate 106 when”. It is further mentioned on lines 9-11, “Tabs 300 facilitate the prevention of substrate bowing by acting as guides for each lateral edge 302 of tape substrate 106, thereby eliminating the possibility of contact between lateral edges 302 and clip windows 110.” Therefore, Kay does not disclose any features that would anticipate the structures and functions of the pair of tabs 300 of the present invention.

In order to specify the particular function of the “pair of tabs”, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include “pair of tabs disposed at opposite ends thereof such that each tab extends beyond a respective one of the lateral edges to prevent tape substrate from bowing”. As such currently amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Kay under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Since claims 2-8 are dependent on currently amended claim1, they are not anticipated by Kay under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and are therefore allowable.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kay (US Patent Pub. 2002/0093080) as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Sheppard et al. (US Patent No. 6,111,324).

According to Applicant, Sheppard et al. does not disclose the structures and the functions of the pair of tabs of the present invention. Sheppard only specifies in column

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3, lines 34-39 that "Carrier ring 100 provides alignment holes 103-1 to 103-4 and index holes 104-1 to 104-4 along a length of the strip to provide reference points to which sensors of standard commercially available assembly equipment can automatically align and index carrier ring 100 for processing." The issue of bowing and warping is not addressed by Sheppard et al.

Therefore, combining Kay and Sheppard does not render claim 6 or any other claims obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Request is made for reconsideration of the application, and allowance of the claims as amended.

Respectfully submitted,

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